



LAND, BORDERS, AND HEALTH

Lecture Series

EVENTBRITE REGISTRATION

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Public Health & Migration @ DLSPH, the Centre for Global Health, and the Waakebiness-Bryce Institute for Indigenous Health, Dalla Lana School of Public Health, in partnership with the Global Health and Social Accountability Program, Department of Family and Community Medicine, Temerty Faculty of Medicine (University of Toronto), invite you to a series of lectures on land, borders, and health. With the contribution of a group of internationally renowned scholars and activists, these lectures will explore how land and borders are relevant to human health and the health of the planet, with the intent of emphasizing the importance of academic work, across disciplinary silos, focusing on restoration, restitution, and reparation.

When we think of migrants, and migrant health, we should think of land and borders. When we think of Indigenous peoples in Canada, on Turtle Island, and around the world, and of Indigenous health, we should think of land and borders. When we think of the dominant understanding of development, so closely related to the myth of infinite economic growth, we should think of land and borders.

A severed connection to land is perhaps the primal, most fundamental experience for migrants. Colonialism has incessantly worked to sever relationships to land, community, culture, and identity through exploitation, land dispossession, displacement, confinement, and expulsions. Today, the daily functioning of the globalized economic system continues that process through the forced integration of subsistence and traditional economies into a market-based economy in constant expansion and by using borders as technologies of racial capitalism. People, Indigenous or otherwise, move from rural areas to city slums and many of them join the international migration fluxes. Migration becomes a pathological by-product of ‘development.’

Similar processes, both historical and contemporary, have dramatically impacted the relationship of Indigenous peoples with land and subjected them to border violence. Dispossession, forced relocation onto reserves, and uprooting of children and their institutionalization in residential schools, among other factors, have profoundly impacted the relationships of Indigenous peoples with land and nature, relationships that represent both a core aspect of their collective identity and a central Indigenous determinant of health.

But a severed connection to land as Mother Earth, as ‘Pachamama,’ is a universal condition. Colonial expansion, scientific and technological revolutions, and the demands imposed by the myth of infinite economic growth have turned land and nature into an assemblage of resources. The restoration of the connections to land is an urgent priority, a restoration that may be possible only by listening to and

learning from alternative systems of knowledge, by breaking the epistemological and ideological cage that suffocates modern Western thinking. This is even more urgent today, as climate change has become perhaps the most significant existential threat ever faced by humanity.

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CALENDAR OF LECTURES

Friday, April 22, **12:30-2pm**

Healthcare Workers Are Not Border Agents: Border Controls, Immigration Policies and Status for All



Harsha Walia

Harsha Walia is formally trained in the law and the award-winning author of *Border and Rule: Global Migration, Capitalism, and the Rise of Racist Nationalism* (Fernwood Publishing) and *Undoing Border Imperialism* (AK Press). She has been involved in community-based grassroots migrant justice, feminist, anti-racist, Indigenous solidarity, anti-capitalist, Palestinian liberation, and anti-imperialist movements for two decades.

Friday, April 29, 12-1:30pm

Visions for Planetary Healing



Nicole Redvers

Dr. Nicole Redvers, ND, MPH, is a member of the Deninu K'ue First Nation in Denendeh (NWT) and has worked with Indigenous patients, scholars, and communities around the globe her entire career. She is an assistant professor in the Department of Family and Community Medicine and the Department of Indigenous Health at the University of North Dakota where she helped developed and launch the first Indigenous health PhD program. Dr. Redvers is co-founder and current board chair of the Canadian charity the Arctic Indigenous Wellness Foundation based in Yellowknife, NWT, providing traditional Indigenous-rooted Land-based healing supports to northerners. She has been actively involved at regional, national, and international levels promoting the inclusion of Indigenous perspectives in both human and planetary health research and practice. She is author of the trade paperback book titled, 'The Science of the Sacred: Bridging Global Indigenous Medicine Systems and Modern Scientific Principles.'

Friday, May 13, 12-1:30pm

Reimagining the Border between Human and Non-Human in Advancing the Right to Health



Kayum Ahmed

Dr. A. Kayum Ahmed is an Assistant Professor at Columbia University's school of public health. He has worked extensively on ensuring equitable global access to Covid-19 vaccines as Division Director at the Open Society Foundations (OSF) Public Health Program. Before moving to New York, Kayum served as Chief Executive Officer of the South African Human Rights Commission from 2010 to 2015. During this period, he led a team of 178 colleagues to monitor, protect and promote human rights in South Africa, and oversaw the management of nearly 45,000 human rights cases. Kayum holds a Ph.D. in education from Columbia University as well as various law degrees from the universities of Oxford (M.S.t), Cape Town (LL.B.), and Leiden (LL.M.). In addition, he has degrees in anthropology (M.A.) and theology (B.A. Hons).

Friday, May 20, 12-2pm

Deep Medicine and the Care Revolution

2022 John R. Evans Lectureship in Global Health



Rupa Marya

Dr. Rupa Marya is a physician, activist, writer, mother, and a composer. She is an Associate Professor of Medicine at the University of California, San Francisco, where she practices and teaches internal medicine. Her work sits at the nexus of climate, health, and racial justice. She is a co-founder of the Do No Harm Coalition, a collective of health workers committed to addressing disease through structural change. At the invitation of Lakḥota health leaders, she is helping to set up the Mni Wiconi Health Clinic and Farm at Standing Rock to decolonize medicine and food. Dr Marya is also co-founder and executive director of the Deep Medicine Circle, an organization committed to healing the wounds of colonialism through food, medicine, story and learning. Working with Association of Ramaytush Ohlone, she developed the Farming is Medicine project, where farmers are recast as ecological stewards under Indigenous leadership, and food is liberated from the market economy. Dr Marya was recognized in 2021 with the Women Leaders in Medicine Award by the American Medical Student Association. She was a reviewer of the American Medical Association's Organizational Strategic Plan to Embed Racial Justice and Advance Health Equity. Dr. Marya was appointed by Governor Newsom to the Healthy California for All Commission, to advance a model for universal healthcare in California. She has toured twenty-nine countries with her band, Rupa and the April Fishes, whose music was described by the legend Gil Scott-Heron as "Liberation Music." Her book on the health impacts of colonialism, which articulates a bold new paradigm for diagnosis — *Inflamed: Deep Medicine and the Anatomy of Injustice* — written with Raj Patel has been published in August 2021.